Editor's Introduction

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To understand the wider context of international migration, this special issue of *Philippine Studies* presents four articles that examine the processes of household formation and maintenance in East and Southeast Asia. Although political economy highlights the structural demand for foreign labor, Mike Douglass contends that migrations must be seen as more than just the expression of global labor relations. Global householding occurs most crucially because of the rapid demographic transitions in Asia's high-income societies, where human populations are shrinking: fertility rates have dipped below the replacement level, and low mortality rates are yielding large cohorts of the elderly. To such countries go the excess workforce—and marriageable women—of countries like the Philippines, there to bear children and otherwise care for the young and the infirm. These migrants propel the social reproduction of households in both destination and origin, which thus become entwined. Douglass stresses the household as a unit of analysis and a core social group in which various structural forces intersect. However, he does not deal with how the boundaries of globalized households as distinct social entities are delineated.

Liling Huang discusses the demographic transition in Taiwan, which emerged in the early 1980s and, in a matter of two decades, has become even more acute than Japan's. The spread of education, among others, has destabilized the marriage system, with a large proportion of highly educated women unwilling to marry and a large proportion of mostly lower-class men unable to find marriage partners. Marital norms have compelled these men to find wives from the Philippines in the early 1990s but largely from China, Vietnam, Indonesia, and Thailand. Migrant spouses now account for 20 per-

cent to 30 percent of total marriages. Where educated women do marry, many bear no more than one child (whereas migrant wives bear more children); in their case, housework and the care of dependents are also passed on to migrant domestic workers and nurses.

Huang observes that education is further implicated in global householding, as it initiated young people's emigration and parental retirement overseas, particularly to the United States, in the 1970s and 1980s. Today Vietnam has become a target for overseas retirement. Since the 1990s Taiwanese youth have trained their sights on China for their higher education and eventual careers. Taiwan offers an eminent case of the varied and unpredictable courses of global householding.

Emma Porio presents the Philippine side of global householding in the wake of labor migration, which reconfigures households and alters power relations. Although the nuclear household is the norm, migration by women compels a sizeable minority to become extended households so as to access the reproductive labor of other women—mothers, mothers-in-law, unmarried sisters. Globalized households show signs of excessive dependence on remittances, and become sites of conflict over familial roles and access to resources, even as migrants forge global chains of care giving and fuel the migration of other kin, which then further transforms householding.

Shirlena Huang, Brenda S. A. Yeoh, and Paulin Straughan deal with the effects of short-term business travel on middle-class households in Singapore. They argue that wives, whether as traveler or nontraveler, and foreign female domestic workers, who enable corporate women to travel, bear the brunt of sustaining households amid the periodic disruptions caused by business travel. Huang and her colleagues argue that households are propped up by stereotypes of women as the primary nurturers. Most striking is the collective denial of the indispensability of the foreign domestic worker.

Under different conditions, both resistance and accommodation to gender ideologies are central to global householding, a process that relies on mobility as much as on nonmobility. These articles bring demography back to transnational migration studies, but also raise the need to elucidate the complex relationships in global householding, probe the articulations of familial and household practices and discourses, and trace their wider social, cultural, and political concomitants and implications.